SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NE		
ANTONIA ROMAN,	X	Case No.: 07 CIV 8055 (CLB) (GAY)
	Plaintiff,	AFFIRMATION IN OPPOSITION TO
-against-		PLAINTIFF'S APPLICATION FOR A
GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL,		DEFAULT JUDGMENT
	Defendant.	

PHILIP M. AGLIETTI, an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the Courts of the State of New York, affirms the following under the penalties of perjury;

- 1. I am an attorney associated with BURATTI, KAPLAN, McCARTHY & McCARTHY, attorneys for defendant, GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL, in the above entitled matter and as such, I am fully familiar with the facts and circumstances of this matter based upon the file maintained in your affirmant's office.
- 2. This affirmation is respectfully submitted in opposition to plaintiff's application seeking a default judgment against the defendant.
- 3. Plaintiff's action arose from a motor vehicle accident of July 14, 2006 on Route 59 West near the off-ramp of northbound Route 304. The plaintiff was a passenger in a motor vehicle driven by a non-party to this action. A copy of the police accident report for the accident is annexed hereto as **Exhibit "A"**.
- 4. Plaintiff's action was commenced by the service of a Summons and Complaint upon the defendant on September 28, 2007. An Answer was served on the plaintiff on October 30, 2007. Service of the Answer was twelve days late. A copy of the Answer is annexed hereto as **Exhibit "B"**.

- 5. Plaintiff's application for the default judgment is dated a week earlier, October 23, 2007, five days after the Answer's due date.
- 6. The twelve-day delay in serving the Answer resulted from the time it took for the defendant to provide the Complaint to her carrier, for the carrier to assign the case to my office and my preparation of the Answer.
- 7. My failure to contact plaintiff's counsel and advise him of the delay was inconsiderate to counsel, inconsiderate to this Court and a mistake.
- 8. In the case at bar, the clerk entered the defendant's default after notice by the plaintiff. A hearing has been scheduled to determine the alleged default. A default judgment has not been entered.
 - 9. This Court may set aside a default for good cause shown. F.R.C.P. 55(c).
 - 10. The defendant respectfully requests that the entry of default be set aside.
- 11. The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has held that the criteria for setting aside a default is less rigorous than an application to vacate a default judgment. American Alliance Ins. Co. Ltd. v. Eagle Ins. Co., 92 F3d 57 (2d cir., 1996).
- 12. There is a preference for resolving disputes on their merits at trial. In an application to set aside a default or to vacate a default judgment, the Court will consider whether the default was willful; whether the defaulting party has a meritorious defense; and how the plaintiff will be prejudiced by setting aside the default. S.E.C. v. McNulty, 137 F3d 732 (2d Cir., 1998) and Brien v. Kullman Industries, 71 F3d 1073 (2d Cir., 1995).
 - 13. A default was willful when a defendant willfully refuses to respond to a

complaint. <u>I.L.G.W.U. Nat. Retirement Fund v. Meredith Gray, Inc.</u>, 986 F. Supp 816 (SDNY, 1997). In the case at bar, there was a delay in answering. There was no refusal to Answer after a court order or a request from the plaintiff.

- 14. The Answer at bar was served twelve days late. It is respectfully submitted that the delay was not due to defendant's egregious conduct and has been explained.
- 15. It is further submitted that the defendant has a meritorious defense. As can be seen from the annexed police report, the plaintiff was passenger in a vehicle driven by a non-party to this action. While the defendant may bear some responsibility for the accident, the plaintiff's host driver may need to be added to this action.
- 16. Furthermore, the medical records provided by the plaintiff indicate that plaintiff alleges that, as a result of the accident, she suffered a cervical sprain/strain; a non-displaced 9th lateral right rib fracture and a right hand contusion.
- 17. Plaintiff appeared for eight physical therapy sessions from August 22 to October 15, 2006. An examination by Dr. A. Louis Mariorenzi, performed at the request of the plaintiff's no-fault carrier on October 31. 2006, shows that plaintiff had fully recovered from her alleged injuries. See copies of medical records annexed hereto as **Exhibit "C"**.
- 18. It is respectfully submitted that there is ample medical evidence to questions whether the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000.
- 19. To set aside the default, the defendant must provide a sufficient showing of a meritorious defense and need not establish her defense conclusively. <u>S.E.C. v. McNulty</u>, supra.

- Lastly, it is respectfully submitted that setting aside the default will not 20. prejudice the plaintiff. Delay alone is not sufficient to establish prejudice unless the delay leads to a loss of evidence or increased difficulties in retrieving evidence. I.L.G.W.U. Nat Retirement Fund v. Meredith Gray, Inc., supra. Such is not the case at bar.
- 21. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the twelve day delay in Answering the Complaint be excused and that the default be set aside.

Dated: Yonkers, New York November 28, 2007

PHILIP M. AGLIETTI (PMA 7801)

EXHIBIT

"A"

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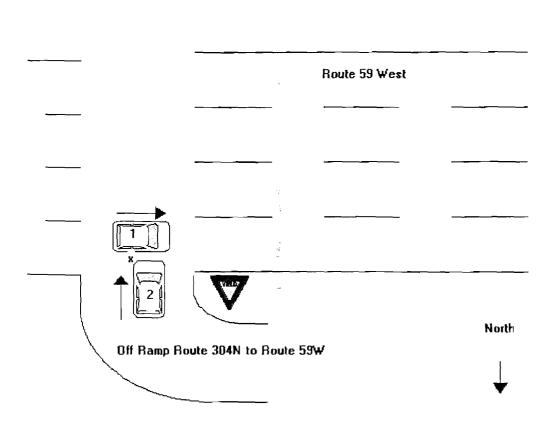
Case 7:07-cv-08055-CLB-GAY Document 9 Filed 12/04/2007 Page 7 of 27

Local Codes 06-19188 MTG222000038

POLICE ACCIDENT REPORT

■ AMENDED REPORT

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	ate		Day of Week	Military Time	No. of	No. Injured	No. Killed	Not Investigated at Scene	Left Scene	Police Photos	
Month 7	Day 14	Year 2006	Friday	12:51	Vehicles 2	1	0	Accident Reconstructed		☐ Yes ⊠ No	



EXHIBIT



UNITED STATES DISTRICT CO SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEV		
ANTONIA ROMAN,	X	Case No.: 07 CIV 8055 (CLB)
	Plaintiff,	NOTICE OF
-against-		APPEARANCE AND ANSWER
GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL,		
	Defendant. X	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Defendant, GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL, hereby appears in this action by her attorneys, BURATTI, KAPLAN, McCARTHY & McCARTHY, and interposes the following Notice of Appearance and Answer to Complaint of the Plaintiff, ANTONIA ROMAN, as follows:

ANSWERING THE CAUSE OF ACTION

The Defendant alleges that she is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraphs numbered "1" and "5" in the complaint.

The Defendant denies upon information and belief the allegations contained in Paragraphs "9", "10", "11", "14", "15", "16" and "17" in the complaint.

The Defendant denies upon information and belief the allegations contained in Paragraphs numbered "3", "4", "12" and "13" in the complaint and respectfully refers this matter to the trial Court as a question of law.

The Defendant denies upon information and belief the allegations contained in Paragraph numbered "8" in the complaint except to admit contact.

AS AND FOR A FIRST SEPARATE, AFFIRMATIVE AND COMPLETE DEFENSE TO PLAINTIFF'S ALLEGED CAUSE OF ACTION, DEFENDANT RESPECTFULLY SETS FORTH AND ALLEGES UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

That any verdict in the within action, for past, present and future medical care, dental care, custodial care, or rehabilitation services, loss of earnings or other economic loss, should be reduced by the amount that any such expense has or will with reasonable certainty be replaced or indemnified in whole or in part from any collateral source, in accordance with the provisions and limitations of Section 4545(c) of the New York State CPLR.

AS AND FOR A SECOND SEPARATE, AFFIRMATIVE AND COMPLETE DEFENSE TO PLAINTIFF'S ALLEGED CAUSE OF ACTION, DEFENDANT RESPECTFULLY SETS FORTH AND ALLEGES UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

Plaintiff, **ANTONIA ROMAN**, has failed to sustain a serious physical injury as defined by Article 51 of the Insurance Law of the State of New York.

AS AND FOR A THIRD SEPARATE, AFFIRMATIVE AND COMPLETE DEFENSE TO PLAINTIFF'S ALLEGED CAUSE OF ACTION, DEFENDANT RESPECTFULLY SETS FORTH AND ALLEGES UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

Plaintiff, **ANTONIA ROMAN**, is limited to recovery for basic economic loss as provided for by the no-fault provisions of Article 51 of the Insurance Law of the State of New York.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH SEPARATE, AFFIRMATIVE AND COMPLETE DEFENSE TO PLAINTIFF'S ALLEGED CAUSE OF ACTION, DEFENDANT RESPECTFULLY SETS FORTH AND ALLEGES UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

Any damages sustained by the Plaintiff, **ANTONIA ROMAN**, were caused by the culpable conduct of the Plaintiff, including contributory negligence or assumption of risk,

and not by the culpable conduct or negligence of the third-party defendant.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH SEPARATE, AFFIRMATIVE AND COMPLETE DEFENSE TO PLAINTIFF'S ALLEGED CAUSE OF ACTION, DEFENDANT RESPECTFULLY SETS FORTH AND ALLEGES UPON **INFORMATION AND BELIEF:**

Plaintiff, ANTONIA ROMAN, failed to use or misused available seat belts, and thereby contributed to the alleged injuries.

WHEREFORE, the defendant demands judgment dismissing this Complaint, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: Yonkers, New York October 30, 2007

Yours, etc.

BURATTI, KAPLAN, McCARTHY & McCARTHY

/PHILIP M. AGLIETTI (PMA 7801)

Attorney for Defendant

GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL

One Executive Boulevard, Suite 280 Yonkers, New York 10701

(914) 378-3900

Our File No.: 21937

To: **VLOCK & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

> Attorneys for Plaintiff 230 Park Avenue New York, New York 10169 (212) 557-0020

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW		
ANTONIA ROMAN,	^	Case No.: 07 CIV 8055 (CLB)
-against-	Plaintiff,	AFFIRMATION OF SERVICE
GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL,		
	Defendant.	
STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)):SS.:	
COUNTY OF WEST CHESTER	,	

VINCENT P. MOLLICONE, being duly sworn, deposes and says: Deponent is not a party to the action, is over 18 years of age and resides in Putnam County.

On October 30, 2007, deponent served the within **NOTICE OF APPEARANCE AND ANSWER**, upon the following attorneys in this action, at the addresses indicted below, which addresses have been designated by said attorneys for that purpose by depositing a true copy of same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

TO: Vlock & Associates, P.C. 230 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10169

VINCENT P. MOLLICONE

Sworn to before me on this

October 30, 2007.

Notary Public, State of New York

No. 01FR6132272

Qualified in Westchester County Commission Expires August 22, 2009

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK CASE NO. 07 CIV 8055 (CLB)

ANTONIA ROMAN,		
	Plaintiff,	
- against -		
GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL,		
	Defendant.	
	NOTICE OF APPEARANCE AND ANSWER	
	NOTICE OF AFFEARANCE AND ANSWER	

BURATTI, KAPLAN, McCARTHY & McCARTHY ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT ONE EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, SUITE 280 YONKERS, NEW YORK 10701 (914) 378-3900

EXHIBIT

Mar 14 20 11:35





Martin J. Kerzer, D.O. 857 Post Road Warwick, RI 02888

Report Data

Patient: Antonia Roman

Visit: 239522 Date: 08/01/06

Examiner: Martin Kerzer, D.O.

Vitals

BP: 124/90 Fulse Rate: 60 Temp: 97.8 Ht: 60.5 Inches Wt: 160 Lb

HISTORY:

Antonia Roman presents with her granddaughter who states that she was a rear seat passenger of an automobile that was involved in an accident on 7/14/06. The car was struck on the rear passenger side by another car.

She denies any head trauma or loss of consciousness. The patient's past medical history is significant for artritis and hypertension. She is unsure of her medications.

The patient was seen at an Emergency Room in Nyack, NY following the accident. She is retired.

The patient is complaining of right hand, rib and neck pain. The patient was leaning on her hand on the window when the car was struck. Since the accident the patient's symptoms have persisted.

OBJECTIVE FINDINGS:

Physical Exam revealed a 67 year-old female who was in some distress. Heart and lungs were normal, Her abdominal exam was unremarkable.

Musculoskeletal exam revealed tenderness and muscle spasm of the cervical spine. Range of motion was markedly restricted to approximately 25% normal in all directions. Right lateral rib tenderness with palpation was noted. She had tenderness of the lateral right hand. The neurologic exam was unremarkable.

DIAGNOSIS:

Acute Cervical Spine Sprain and Strain. Right Hand Contusion. Contusion Right Ribs. Possible fracture.

TREATMENT:

The patient was advised to ice the affected areas. I asked her family to bring in her medications. She was referred for a course of physical therapy. The patient was advised to rest. X-rays will be obtained.

ACS

:212-788-3952

Mar 14 20 11:36

P. 14



Martin J. Kerzer, D.O. 857 Post Road Warwick, RI 02888

Report Data

Patient: Antonia Roman

Visit: 242542 Date: 08/22/05

Examiner: Martin Kerzer, D.O.

The patient is here for a return visit. Currently, she is doing a little better.

Her physical exam revealed pain with palpation of the right upper arm and lower arm and lateral right ribs.

Her cervical spine ROM is a little better.

She was advised to start physical therapy and was instructed in breathing exercises. Carmen is present. She will be re-evaluated in 4 weeks. The patient was advised to call me if she has any problems.

:212-788-3952

Mar 14 20 11:35

P. 13



Martin J. Kerzer, D.O. 857 Post Road Warwick, RI 02888

Report Data

Patient: Antonia Roman

Visit: 248802 Date: 09/12/06

Examiner: Martin Kerzer, D.O.

The patient is here for a re-evaluation with her son. Currently, she is doing better and is showing improvement with the PT.

Her physical exam revealed less tenderness with improved range of motion of the neck.

Some right rib tenderness

She was advised to continue with the physical therapy and increase the strengthening exercises. She will be re-evaluated in 4 weeks. The patient was advised to call me if she has any problems.

18028*1 0 08/08/06



Martin J. Kerzer, D.O. 857 Post Road Warwick, RI 02888

Report Data

Patient

Birthdate

18028 Antonia Roman 11/02/18 Age 88 year-old Sex F Martin Kerzer

Group MD

1) IMAGING XRAYCSPINE *See detail

Detail for Test 18028*1

Test#: 1

Test Date: 08/08/06
Name: xraycspine Name:

Laboratory: IMAGING

Ordered By: 1 Martin Kerzer Lab Order Dx Code #: None Given

Test Data

Description:

*****FINAL REPORT****

08/08/2006 PATIENT: ANTONIA ROMAN

DOB:

11/02/1918

HOME:

(401) 946-1211

WORK:

401

MARTIN J KERZER, DO

857 POST ROAD

WARWICK, RI 02888

Dear MARTIN J KERZER, DO

08/08/2006

X-RAY C-SPINE W/ OBLIQUES

INDICATION: Pain, motor vehicle accident.

In evaluation of the cervical spine, diffuse osteopenia is present. There is no plain film detection of fractures. The prevertebral soft tissues are intact. There

ST Date

Record Lab Test Name Result Det

is no evidence for a traumatic listhesis.

Moderate degenerative arthritis is noted including endplate sclerosis and bony osteophyte formation.

IMPRESSION:

Advanced osteopenia, without evidence for cervical spinal fractures. Degenerative spondylosis.

08/08/2006 X-RAY HAND-RIGHT 3 VIEWS

INDICATION: Pain, motor vehicle accident.

Osteopenia is identified. There is significant degenerative arthritic changes noted of the first and second MCP, DIP and second PIP joints. The base of the thumb and the remaining DIP and PIP joints have moderate degree of degenerative arthritis. No acute fractures are detected.

IMPRESSION: Moderately advanced degenerative arthritis right hand, without evidence for acute fractures.

08/08/2006 X-RAY RIBS-RIGHT W/ CHEST

INDICATION: Pain, motor vehicle accident.

Osteopenia is present. There is cortical irregularity suggestive of a nondisplaced fracture of the 9th lateral right rib. Mild atelectasis is identified in the right basilar region, without significant effusion formation, evidence for a contusion or large effusion on PA view. The heart is normal in size. The lungs are clear of consolidation as well.

IMPRESSION: Nondisplaced fracture of the 9th lateral right rib with underlying right basilar atelectasis.

Thank you for your referral to The Imaging Institute

Electronically signed by: TERRY P. PRINCE, M. D.



Family Medicine • Internal Medicine

857 POST ROAD • WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02888-3359 (401) 467-3115 Fax (401) 467-9120 Martin J. Kerzer, D.O. Dennis D. Botelho, M.D. David J. Frederiks, M.D. Arny B. Berrol, P.A.-C. Jan Berard, R.N.P.C.

INITIAL PHYSICAL THERAPY REPORT NAME: DATE: DOCTOR: Webril

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EGS

ASSOCIATES IN PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE, INC.

Family Medicine • Internal Medicine

857 POST ROAD • WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02888-3359 (401) 467-3115 Fax (401) 467-9120 DX: Cland Strol Fx @ Mb NAME: HOT PACKS INFRA RED CDL **ULTRA SOUND** C D L GD L **TRACTION** WHIRLPOOL MASSAGE CDL CDL PASSIVE EXERCISE **ACTIVE EXERCISE** CDL ACTIVE ASSIST. EXERCISE C D L STRENGTHENING EXERCISE OD. L

MFR CDL CDL ICE MASSAGE OTHER **NOTES TAKEN** 26 (V) INITIALS

COMMENTS:

SUPPLY

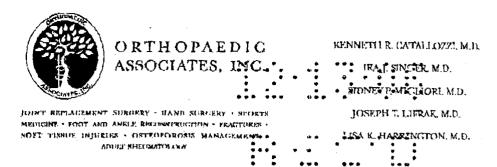
A. I. OUIS MARIORENZI, M.D.

LOUIS J. MARIORENZI, M.D.

GREGORY J. AUSTIN, M.D.

MICHAEL, E. MARIORENZI, M.D.

CHRISTOPHER N. CHIHIJAS, M.D.



November 5, 2006

D&D Associates—Hooper Evaluations PO Box 9150 Garden City, NY 11530

RE:

Antonia Roman 20 Kelley Street

Providence, RI 02909

Date of Evaluation: 10/31/06

Date of Injury: 7/14/06 Claim#; 3635195202

DD#: 1002920

CHIEF COMPLAINT: Injury to the neck, right ribs and right arm,

HISTORY: This 87-year-old female was a passenger riding in the rear seat of a motor vehicle which was struck on the passenger's side rear door. She states immediately after the accident she was frightened and later was seen at a local hospital where she was examined, x-rays taken and she was released. The accident occurred in New York. When she returned to RI, she was seen by Dr. Kerzer and was treated with medication and PT which at the present time, has been discontinued.

At the time of this evaluation she complains of some pain in the right arm. She complains of pain in the cervical area with some discomfort in the intrascapular region on the right side. She states for these complaints she takes medication but the name of which she does not know. She is not clear whether or not if she remains under Dr. Kerzer's care and may have been discharged.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Alert cooperative female. NAD. Exam of the head revealed it to be symmetrical. Neck revealed a normal cervical lordotic curvature. There was no tenderness or spasm of the paracervical muscles. Flexion, extension, lateral bends and rotatory motion were normal in range. Compression Test was negative. Intrascapular tenderness was absent and scapulothoracic motion was normal. Exam of the thoracic rib cage revealed good expansion with inspiration/expiration. Compression of the chest in the AP and lateral plane was not associated with any pain or discomfort and no localized areas of point tenderness throughout the thoracic rib cage on the right or left side were noted to be present. Exam of the right upper extremity was normal. Exam of the right



RE: Antonia Roma

Date of Evaluation: 10/31/06

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hand revealed arthritic changes involving all joints of the hand with specific involvement of the MP joint of the index and middle finger with some changes involving the CMC joint of the hand manifested by bulbous thickening, restricted motion, grating and crepitation. Circulation and sensory exam were noted to be normal.

X-RAYS: No x-rays were taken at the time of this evaluation. The patient did bring to the office with her x-rays of the cervical spine showing evidence of degenerative spondylosis throughout the cervical area, moderate in degree with some osteophytic spur formation. There is no evidence of fractures or acute injuries. X-rays of the right hand reveal moderate degenerative arthritic changes involving the MP joint of the index and middle finger involving the PIP and DIP joints of the thumb with some generalized arthritic changes in the other digits. X-rays of the right rib cage show a non-displaced fracture of the ninth rib and x-rays of the chest reveal a right basilar atelectasts. All of these x-rays were dated 8/8/06.

IMPRESSION: 1) Cervical strain with full recovery.

- 2) Contusion right hand with full recovery.
- 3) Undisplaced fracture ninth rib right side with full recovery.

DISCUSSION: This patient as a result of the above stated MVA, suffered the injuries as stated above. At the time of this evaluation, her physical findings are WNL with no evidence of any residual soft tissue injuries to the above stated areas and her clinical evaluation would indicate that the non-displaced rib fracture at this time has healed.

It is my opinion that from these injuries, she has at this time, made a full and complete recovery. She has reached MMI and from these injuries no functional impairment has resulted. It is also my opinion that further treatment to cure or rehabilitate her from these injuries is not indicated.

PROGNOSIS: The patient's prognosis is good. MMI with no PPI has resulted.



RE: Antonia Roma

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ABILITY TO WORK. The patient presently should be capable of resuming full and normal activity consistent with her age.

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP: The above stated injuries appear to have resulted from the MVA as indicated by the history given to me by the patient.

The above statements were made to within a reasonable degree of medical certainty.

I declare under the penalties of perjury, that the information contained within this document was prepared and is the work produce of the undersigned and is true to the best of my knowledge and information.

Sincercly,

A. Louis Marioreozi, M.D.

RI License# 3252

ALM/hmn

LIMITED OTATED DIOTOLOT COLUM

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)):SS.:)	
	Defendant. X	
GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL,		
-against-	rianium,	AFFIRMATION OF SERVICE
ANTONIA ROMAN,	Plaintiff,	Case No.: 07 CIV 8055 (CLB)
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEV	V YORK	

VINCENT P. MOLLICONE, being duly sworn, deposes and says: Deponent is not a party to the action, is over 18 years of age and resides in Putnam County.

On November 29, 2007, deponent served the within AFFIRMATION IN OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S APPLICATION FOR A DEFAULT JUDGMENT, upon the following attorneys in this action, at the addresses indicted below, which addresses have been designated by said attorneys for that purpose by depositing a true copy of same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

TO: Vlock & Associates, P.C.

230 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10169

VINCENT P MOLLICONE

Sworn to before me on this

November 29, 2007.

YUZETH SMITH

Notary Public, State of New York

No/01SM6070889

Qualified in Westchester County Commission Expires March 11, 2010

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK CASE NO. 07 CIV 8055 (CLB) (GAY)

ANTONIA ROMAN,		
	Plaintiff,	
- against -		
GRETCHEN P. CAMPBELL,		
	Defendant.	
		

BURATTI, KAPLAN, McCARTHY & McCARTHY ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT ONE EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, SUITE 280 YONKERS, NEW YORK 10701 (914) 378-3900